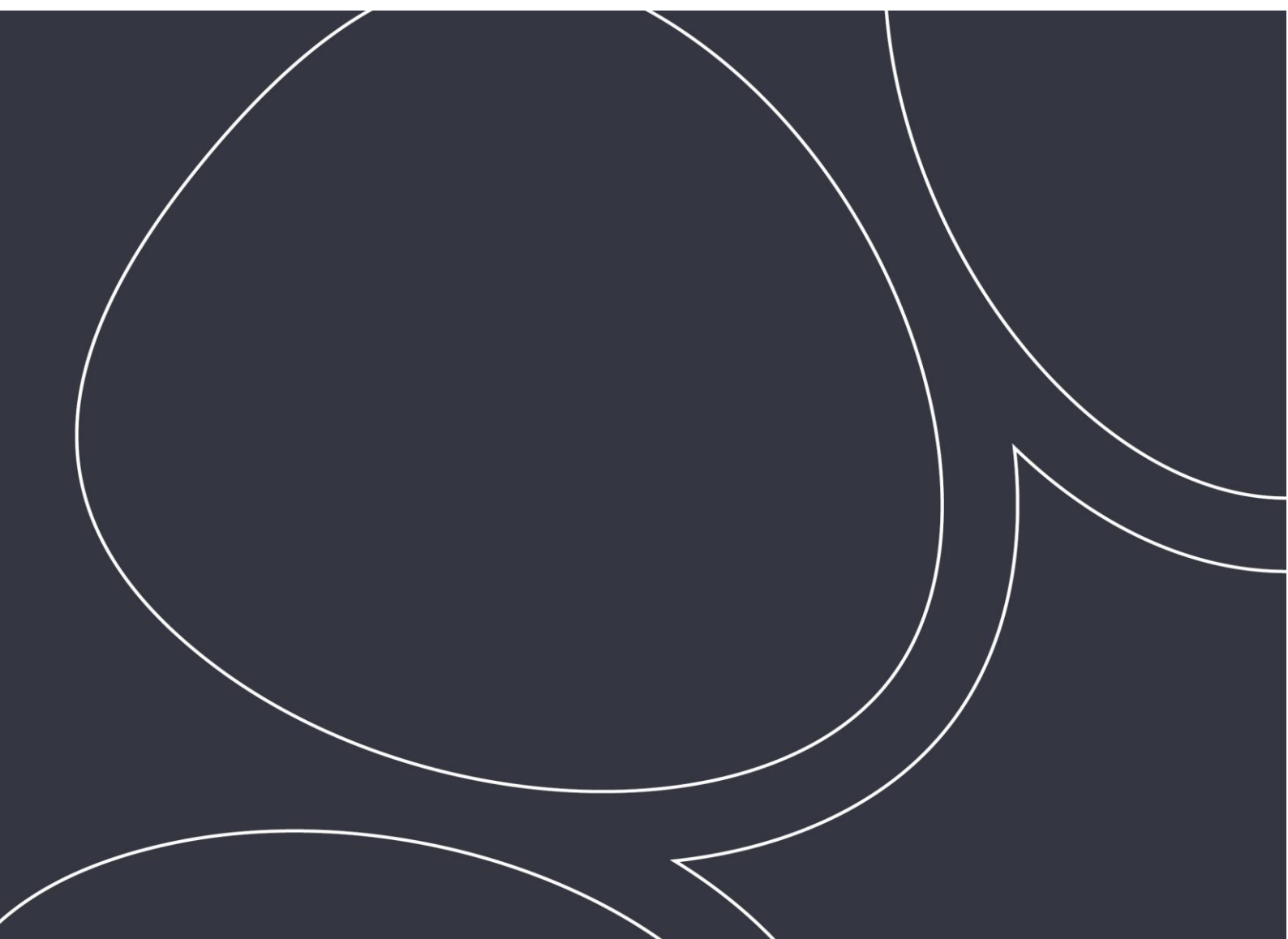


Death of a Child in Care

Policy



Document title	Death of a Child in Care
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Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	16/03/2015	Service Development and Policy	To ensure that staff are provided with information about statutory obligations following the death of a child in care.
1.02	21/07/2017	Operational Policy	Minor amendments
1.03	15/01/2026	Operational Policy	Rebranded the document and updated links. Changed case manager to practitioner; Territory Families changed to Department of Children and Families.

Acronyms	Full form
Practitioner	Child Protection Practitioner
The Department	Department of Children and Families

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1. Policy Purpose

To ensure that following an adverse event, the Department's Care and Protection statutory obligations and standards of care are met in a professional and timely manner, with consideration and concern for those affected.

2. Policy Statement

In an emergency, including a suspected death, immediately dial 000 and report the incident.

In the event of the confirmed death of a child in care, the child's carer or person having knowledge of the death is to immediately report the matter to the practitioner, team leader or manager. It is then the responsibility of Departmental staff to take further action to inform family and authorities and to make funeral arrangements.

The Department has statutory obligations in responding to the death of a child in care and these must be met in a timely manner and with due consideration to the impact of the child's death on the child's family, carers, other children and staff. In addition to the administrative tasks that must be undertaken the family, carers, other children and staff must be offered, and provided with, appropriate support and counselling services.

3. Legislative Basis and Related Documents

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Coroners Act 1993](#)